

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02713 071839 Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DPW-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-12

AID-20 SCS-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 /132 W
----- 010010

O R 071730 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3491

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2713

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: ABC NEWS REPORT OF EXECUTION OF USPWS IN LAOS

SUMMARY: EMBASSY LEARNED EARLY THIS EVENING THAT ABC HAD REPORTED TODAY OVER NATIONAL NETWORK THAT DRV OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE STATED THAT 200 USPWS WERE SYSTEMATICALLY EXECUTED BY THEIR PL CAPTORS. IN DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH ABC VIENTIANE SOURCE DENIS CAMERON, EMBOFF LEARNED THAT REPORT IS A DISTORTION OF A PERSONAL OPINION RENDERED BY DRV EMBASSY OFFICER WHICH CAMERON TRANSMITTED TO HIS NY OFFICE AS INFO ONLY WITH PROVISIO THAT IT NOT BE REPORTED. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY FIRST LEARNED OF ABC NATION- WIDE BROADCAST THROUGH NBC CORRESPONDENT WHO HAD BEEN ASKED BY HIS NETWORK TO CHECK SOURCE OF STORY. EMBOFF CONTACTED CAMERON AT HIS HOTEL THIS EVENING. CAMERON STATED THAT AFTERNOON OF APRIL 6 HE HAD GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH OFFICER OF DRV
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 02713 071839 Z

EMBASSY HERE WHEN SUBJECT OF FATE OF USPWS IN LAOS CAME UP. WITH MUCH PROBING, CAMERON ADMITTED THAT ENTIRE ABC REPORT IS BASED ON A " PERSONAL OPINION" OF DRV OFFICIAL RENDERED IN " OFF- HANDED MANNER" THAT PL CAPTORS DID NOT WANT TO FEED THEIR PRISONERS, SO THEY KILLED THEM.

FOREGOING IS THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF THE SOURCE OF ABC' S STORY. CAMERON STATES THAT THE PHRASE " SYSTEMATIC EXECUTION" WAS AN EMBELLISHMENT ADDED BY ABC NY AS WAS THE FIGURE OF 200 THAT WAS USED IN THE REPORT. CAMERON STATES THAT THE 200 FIGURE QUOTED WAS POSSIBLY A THROW- BACK TO LAST WEEK' S UPI AND CRONKITE STORY. CAMERON CLAIMS THAT HE DID NOT FILE THE STORY BUT ONLY MENTIONED IT AS INFORMATION DURING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH HIS NY OFFICE. HE CLAIMED TO BE DISTRAUGHT THAT THE STORY WAS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN ITS DISTORTED FORM.

2. CAMERON WENT ON TO STATE THAT HIS NY OFFICE HAD CALLED HIM THREE TIMES TODAY URGING HIM TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS ON A STORY THAT DOES NOT IN FACT EXIST. CAMERON, EVIDENTLY CAUGHT UP IN THE WAKE OF HIS OWN STORM, CALLED ON HIS DRV CONTACT AGAIN TODAY, BUT CLAIMS LATTER " SHUT UP TIGHT AS A CLAM" AND REFUSED TO DISCUSS PWS IN ANY CONTEXT.

3. EMBOFF INFORMED CAMERON THAT EMBASSY HAS NO IN3 JINUBJJULWF DYXXUE
&,05(&/3:7589, 9* 7 02 ?6 0). HE
FURTHER STATED THAT HE WAS SHOCKED THAT THE PERSON-
AL OPINION OF A DRV OFFICER SPECULATING ON WHAT PL
MAY HAVE DONE IF THEY DID NOT WANT TO FEED PWS
COULD BE DISTORTED INTO UNQUALIFIED REPORT THAT
200 PWS WERE SYSTEMATICALLY EXECUTED. CAMERON IN-
SISTED THAT IT WAS HIS NY OFFICE THAT HAD EMBELLISHED
AND DISTORTED THE STORY WHICH HE HAD SPECIFICALLY
REQUESTED NOT BE REPORTED. HE STATED THAT IN TODAY' S
CONTACTS WITH HIS NY OFFICE, HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO SET
THE RECORD STRAIGHT.
GODLEY

NOTE BY OC/ T: VIENTIANE 2713. TEXT AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION
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PAGE 03 VIENTI 02713 071839 Z

TO FOLLOW.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: CASC, MOPS, LA
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EA
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